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Reports

Item#1

Americans' Concerns about China: Economics, Cyberattacks, Human Rights Top the List. YaleGlobal. Richard Wike. September 9, 2015.

As the White House prepares to host Chinese President Xi Jinping for his first state visit to the United States later this month, the American public continues to see a number of issues related to China and its rising power as major concerns. In particular, economic issues loom large. China's growth rate has slowed, its stock markets have recently plummeted and it is facing a variety of economic challenges, but Americans are still concerned about economic threats posed by China – especially the amount of U.S. debt held by Beijing, the U.S.-China trade deficit and the loss of American jobs to China.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/09/09/americans-concerns-about-china-economics-cyberattacks-human-rights-top-the-list/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

China's Grand Parade to Keep Some Ghosts of History Alive.YaleGlobal. Börje Ljunggren. September 8, 2015.

Asia's two great power marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. In a speech, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe surprised by offering words of atonement for his country's role while China celebrated with a grand military parade emphasizing victory against Japan. China has ample reasons to be proud of its role during World War II, resisting Japanese occupiers and expansionism even as the Nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek battled against the Communists under Mao Zedong. "But for this celebration, 'the great renewal of the Chinese nation' was the centrepiece, and the role of the Nationalist Army was recognized in an unprecedented positive way – all in the spirit of the Communist Party's increasingly nationalistic definition for itself," writes Börje Ljunggren. The war was horrific, and bitterness lingers seven decades later. Ljunggren concludes that in the competition for global power and influence, cooperation should not be overlooked.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china%E2%80%99s-grand-parade-keep-some-ghosts-history-alive> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

How Asia-Pacific Publics See Each Other and Their National Leaders. Pew Research Center. Bruce Stokes. September 2, 2015.

The coming decades promise to be the Asian Century, when the most populous region, with some of the world's fastest growing economies, is likely to become the global nexus of commercial, cultural and geopolitical activity. For this reason, how people in the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia, see each other and their leaders is of growing importance. Overall, despite historical and territorial frictions, Asia-Pacific publics tend to view their regional neighbors in a positive light, with Japan judged most favorably.

But these same publics also express limited confidence in the region's most prominent national leaders when it comes to their handling of international issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/09/Pew-Research-Center-Asian-Views-of-Each-Other-Report-FINAL-September-2-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages, 502.22 KB].

Item#4

Worried About China? Keep Calm as Markets Return to Earth. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. September 1, 2015.

A long anticipated slowdown in China's growth prompted a downturn in stock prices and firm government interventions. The percentage of foreign investors in Chinese stocks are low, but the abrupt moves unnerved investors around the globe. Market prices fell in Europe, the United States, Japan and the many countries closely linked to China's economy. China has long been regarded as the world's engine of growth, and the volatility signals "a return to a more historically normal and realistic assessment of the risks in the real economy and to stock prices," writes economist David Dapice. The global economy is not in balance. Many developing countries have relied far too heavily on increasing commodity sales to China. The United States has reverted to savings mode and can't be counted on for rescue through consumption. Weakened currencies have not led to more growth for Europe, and that could lead to new rounds of currency manipulations and trade barriers from all.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/worried-about-china-keep-calm-markets-returns-earth> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

New Delhi's Soft Power Push. YaleGlobal. Harsh V. Pant. August 20, 2015.

Harvard University's Joseph Nye identified a centuries-old concept, "soft power," in the late 1980s: the ability of countries to attract admiration and followers through culture and values rather than coercion, military or "hard power." Countries want to be liked, increasingly investing in soft power. Portland, a communications and public relations firm, studied 50 nations and ranked the top 30 for soft power – the UK ranked first; South Korea, 20th; and China, 30th. While India does not make the top 30, the report singles out India's Narendra Modi with a special profile. Analysts suggest hard power is about "push" and soft power is about "pull," and Harsh V. Pant credits Modi for a strategic promotion of India's ample soft power with Bollywood, yoga and democracy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/new-delhi%E2%80%99s-soft-power-push> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

Energy Sanctions and Russia: What Comes Next? Atlantic Council. Adnan Vatansever. September 10, 2015.

The West has responded to the Kremlin's increasingly bellicose policy in the former Soviet space by imposing punitive measures against Russia's energy sector. The immediate impact of such measures appears limited as neither oil nor gas flowing from Russia is expected to suffer right away. However, the sanctions' long-term implications may prove more important. Vatansever argues that the sanctions could diminish Russia's capacity to produce the same amount of oil and hamper a number of its gas objectives abroad.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/Energy_Sanctions_and_Russia_0910_web.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages, 575.0 KB].

Item#7

Iraqi Stability and the "ISIS War." Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. August 12, 2015.

The events in Iraq over the last month have shown that any success in Iraq requires both the Iraqi government and the United States to go far beyond the war against ISIS, and makes any partisan debate over who lost Iraq as damaging to U.S. national interests as any other aspect of America's drift toward partisan extremism.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/150812_Iraq_Stability_and_the_War_on_ISIS.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages, 430.47 KB].

Item#8

Tension Highlights North Korea's Limitations. YaleGlobal. Shim Jae Hoon. August 25, 2015.

North Korea is among the world's most isolated nations. Since the end of the Korean War in 1953, the regime lashes out at South Korea, thriving just across the border. The most recent provocation: a landmine attack that wounded two South Korean border guards. Seoul responded by switching on loudspeakers along the 255-kilometer demarcation line, after their silence for more than a decade. Despite an exchange of artillery fire and the North's August 20 declaration of a "quasi-state of war," South Koreans went about daily routines. The North could not bear the non-stop messages directed at its border guards and quickly agreed to a joint statement that includes an expression of regret and plans to restart peace negotiations. Global ties have transformed since the end of the Cold War in 1991, and the North Korean threat is increasingly hollow, writes journalist Shim Jae Hoon. The North's closest allies, China and Russia, have strong links with South Korea, ranked among the world's top 15 economies. The North doesn't rank among the world's top 100 economies, and its allies urge restraint.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/tension-highlights-north-korea%E2%80%99s-limitations> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Myanmar Ousts Rising Political Star, Confirming Doubts Over Democratic Reforms. YaleGlobal. Bertil Lintner. August 18, 2015.

The West celebrated the promise of democratic reforms for Myanmar after a new government was installed in 2011. The military signaled its desire to restore relations with the West, ending crippling sanctions while reducing excessive reliance on neighboring China. Observers in the West had pointed to the speaker of the Lower House of Myanmar's bicameral parliament as a "bridge" linking Myanmar's rulers with reformers, explains Bertil Lintner. The abrupt ouster of Shwe Mann suggests that the military is not about to let power shift to civilian control. The military has a lock on power: 25 percent of the seats in the country's parliament and regional assemblies are set aside for the military; changes to the country's power structure require 75 percent approval. The United States grumbles about what may have been the plan all along from Myanmar's leaders. China is content to go along with what may be a charade, sticking to its policy of refusing to interfere with others' internal power struggles.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/myanmar-ousts-rising-political-star-confirming-doubts-over-democratic-reforms> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

The Politics of 2 Percent: NATO and the Security Vacuum in Europe. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Jan Techau. September 2, 2015.

The members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) pledged in 2014 to increase their defense spending to 2 percent of their gross domestic products by 2024. It is unrealistic to assume that this goal will ever be reached by all 28 allies, and yet the 2 percent metric persists and it has assumed a significance beyond its face value. It is about addressing Europe's growing security vacuum and defining who will be in charge of European security.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/CP_252_Techau_NATO_Final.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages, 295.40 KB].

Item#11

Privacy vs security?: Europeans' Preferences on Transport Security and Surveillance Measures. RAND Corporation. Sunil Patil et al. August 20, 2015.

The authors have collected evidence from one of the largest-ever surveys of citizens' views across Europe on security, surveillance and privacy issues in three scenarios: train travel, internet use, and storage of health records.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/RB9800/RB9843z1/RAND_RB9843z1.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages, 0.9 MB].

Item#12

Europe's New Economic Divide. YaleGlobal. Chris Miller. August 27, 2015.

Europe still wrestles over how to resolve the debt crisis in Greece. The managing director of the International Monetary Fund warned that Greece's debt remains unsustainable, and she urged the country's European partners to prepare to provide significant relief. "Few voters anywhere in Europe are excited about bailing out Greece's government," writes Miller. He points to an east-west divide in addition to the north-south one. Countries in Western Europe that provide generous social programs with high ratios of debt to GDP, are generally less critical of Greece, fearing that they, too, might need bailouts someday. The former socialist countries in Eastern Europe like Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia are less wealthy than Greece and less sympathetic. Europe's politics are becoming divided in more ways than one.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/europe%E2%80%99s-new-economic-divide> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#13

Arctic Warming and What It Means for the Region and the Planet. Center for American Progress. Hannah Flesch and Cathleen Kelly. August 18, 2015.

The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, according to the report. Since 1900, no other region of the world has undergone such rapid warming as the Arctic. Arctic warming is triggering dramatic changes with serious consequences for both people and wildlife in the region and around the world.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/17132651/ArcticWarming-factsheet.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages, 96.41 KB].

Item#14

An Analysis of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States by Country and Region of Birth. Marc C. Rosenblum and Ariel G. Ruiz Soto. Migration Policy Institute. August 2015.

The report profiles the approximately 11 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States, examining population growth trends over time by country or region of origin as well as geographic distribution by state and top county destinations. The report also assesses eligibility and application rates for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, analyzing differences in application rates by national origin.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Unauth-COB-Report-FINALWEB.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages, 2.36 MB].

Item#15

Mobile Messaging and Social Media 2015. Maeve Duggan. August 19, 2015.

In today's world, people, particularly young people, are continually finding and adapting new ways of communicating electronically to fit their needs. According to the survey, 36% of smartphone owners report using messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Kik or iMessage, and 17% use apps that automatically delete sent messages such as Snapchat or Wickr.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/08/Social-Media-Update-2015-FINAL2.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages, 573.9 KB].

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